

[0029] FIG. 7C is an underside of the gas turbine engine of FIG. 7A opposite FIG. 7B looking forward to illustrate the piggy-back of auxiliary components with the intermediate case.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCLOSED EMBODIMENT

[0030] FIG. 1A illustrates a general partial fragmentary schematic view of a gas turbofan engine 10 suspended from an engine pylon 12 within an engine nacelle assembly N as is typical of an aircraft designed for subsonic operation.

[0031] The turbofan engine 10 includes a core engine within a core nacelle C that houses a low spool 14 and high spool 24. The low spool 14 includes a low pressure compressor 16 and low pressure turbine 18. The low spool 14 drives a fan section 20 connected to the low spool 14 either directly or through a gear train 25.

[0032] The high spool 24 includes a high pressure compressor 26 and high pressure turbine 28. A combustor 30 is arranged between the high pressure compressor 26 and high pressure turbine 28. The low and high spools 14, 24 rotate about an engine axis of rotation A.

[0033] Airflow enters the fan nacelle N which at least partially surrounds the core nacelle C. The fan section 20 communicates airflow into the core nacelle C to the low pressure compressor 16. Core airflow compressed by the low pressure compressor 16 and the high pressure compressor 26 is mixed with the fuel in the combustor 30 where it is ignited, and burned. The resultant high pressure combustor products are expanded through the high pressure turbine 28 and low pressure turbine 18. The turbines 28, 18 are rotationally coupled to the compressors 26, 16 respectively to drive the compressors 26, 16 in response to the expansion of the combustor product. The low pressure turbine 18 also drives the fan section 20 through gear train 25. A core engine exhaust exits the core nacelle C through a core nozzle 43 defined between the core nacelle C and a tail cone 33.

[0034] The engine static structure 44 of FIG. 1B generally has sub-structures including a case structure often referred to as the engine backbone. The engine static structure 44 generally includes a fan case 46, an intermediate case (IMC) 48, a high pressure compressor case 50, a thrust case 52, a low pressure turbine case 54, and a turbine exhaust case 56 (FIG. 1B). The fan section 20 includes a fan rotor 32 with a plurality of circumferentially spaced radially outwardly extending fan blades 34. The fan blades 34 are surrounded by the fan case 46. The core engine case structure is secured to the fan case 46 at the IMC 48 which includes a multiple of circumferentially spaced radially extending struts 40 which radially span the core engine case structure and the fan case 46.

[0035] The engine static structure 44 further supports a bearing system upon which the turbines 28, 18, compressors 26, 16 and fan rotor 32 rotate. A #1 fan dual bearing 60 which rotationally supports the fan rotor 32 is axially located generally within the fan case 46. The #1 fan dual bearing 60 is preloaded to react fan thrust forward and aft (in case of surge). A #2 LPC bearing 62 which rotationally supports the low spool 14 is axially located generally within the intermediate case (IMC) 48. The #2 LPC bearing 62 reacts thrust. A #3 high spool thrust bearing 64 which rotationally supports the high spool 24 and also reacts thrust. The #3 high spool bearing 64 is also axially located generally within the IMC 48 just forward of the high pressure compressor case 50. A #4 bearing 66 which rotationally supports a rear segment of the high

spool 14 reacts only radial loads. The #4 bearing 66 is axially located generally within the thrust case 52 in an aft section thereof. A #5 bearing 68 rotationally supports the rear segment of the low spool 14 and reacts only radial loads. The #5 bearing 68 is axially located generally within the thrust case 52 just aft of the #4 bearing 66. It should be understood that this is an exemplary configuration and any number of bearings may be utilized.

[0036] The #4 bearing 66 and the #5 bearing 68 are supported within a mid-turbine frame (MTF) structure 70 to straddle radially extending structural struts 72 which are preloaded in tension (FIGS. 1C-1D). The MTF 70 provides aft structural support within the thrust case 52 for the #4 bearing 66 and the #5 bearing 68 which rotatably support the spools 14, 24.

[0037] A dual rotor engine such as that disclosed in the illustrated embodiment typically includes a forward frame and a rear frame that support the main rotor bearings. The intermediate case (IMC) 48 also includes the radially extending structural struts 40 which are generally radially aligned with the #2 LPC bearing 62 (FIG. 1A). It should be understood that various engines with various case and frame structures will benefit from the present invention.

[0038] The turbofan gas turbine engine 10 is mounted to aircraft structure such as an aircraft wing through an engine mounting configuration 80 defined by the pylon 12. The engine mounting configuration 80 includes a forward mount 82 and an aft mount 84 (FIGS. 2A-2E). The forward mount 82 is secured to the IMC 48 and the aft mount 84 is secured to the MTF 70 at the thrust case 52. The forward mount 82 and the aft mount 84 are arranged in a plane containing the axis A of the turbofan gas turbine 10. This eliminates the thrust links from the intermediate case, which frees up valuable space beneath the core nacelle and minimizes IMC 48 distortion.

[0039] Referring to FIG. 3, the engine mounting configuration 80 reacts the engine thrust at the aft end of the engine 10. The forward mount 82 supports vertical loads V and side loads S. The forward mount 82 includes a shackle arrangement which mounts to the IMC 48 at two points 86A, 86B. The forward mount 82 is generally a plate-like member which is oriented transverse to the plane which contains engine axis A. Fasteners are oriented through the forward mount 82 to engage the intermediate case (IMC) 48 generally parallel to the engine axis A.

[0040] The aft mount 84 includes a beam transverse to an engine axis A having a first arm 88A and a second arm 88B that mount to the MTF 70 at the thrust case 52 (FIGS. 2A-2E). It should be understood that the first arm 88A and the second arm 88B may alternatively mount to another rear area of the engine 10 such as the exhaust case or other frame area. It should also be understood that the MTF may alternatively be used with any engine case arrangement.

[0041] The first arm 88A includes an attachment fastener 90A and the second arm 88B includes an attachment fastener 90B defined along a respective fastener axis F1, F2 which extends radially inward to intersect the engine axis A. It should be understood that various bushings, vibration isolators and such like may additionally be utilized herewith.

[0042] The first arm 88A supports a link load L1, a sideload S and a thrust load T1. The second arm 88B supports a link load L2 and a thrust load T2. The link loads L1, L2 are torque loads generated by the design of the engine 10. The aft mount 84 is rotatable about an aft mount axis M (FIG. 2D) which vertically intersects the engine axis A. Rotation of the aft